The very successful men’s varsity tennis team has taken on some tough competition this year, including Ardrey Kell, Providence, and Hickory Ridge. They swept the ME-GA 7 Conference tournament, and traveled to Burlington, North Carolina to compete in the 3A Singles State Championships.

Junior Kyle Johnson, who has not lost a singles match this season, became the seventh player in North Carolina state history to win the singles state finals three times in a row after beating Eric Greene of Western Alamance High School.

“For the team, our biggest competition was Providence Day. Even though we lost the match, we only lost by a score of 5-4. It was very close. We always end up losing by a score that looks bad. This match, we really competed well and although we lost I knew we had gotten better as a team,” Johnson said.

Besides Johnson, the top players on the team include juniors Zach Sachee, Matthew Martinez, and Nick Bursch. The youthfulness of the team greatly contributed to their success.

“We are a young team. We have no seniors but the juniors take the leadership role. We are a very determined, unselfish team and we have one goal in common: to win the state championship,” Johnson said.

With a number one seeding in the team state tournament, the men have a positive outlook for the remaining post season. With the guidance of Coach Hazen and the junior class, the team expects to fulfill their goal and win a state championship.

Unfortunately, their winning season came to a tragic end after the team lost in the state finals to Cardinal Gibbons. Despite their success, the season has not been a perfect one. After losses to Providence Day, Myers Park, Ardery Kell, and Providence, the boys turned the season around with major wins against Charlotte Latin and Concord.

“In the Latin game, we had a couple of match points against us but Zach especially turned it around for us by clinching the match at number 4,” Johnson said.